

LEAd-ME Council Meeting

November 1, 2006

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Susan Lee (MCLPPP), Karen Casey (MaineCare), Sandra Cort (Learning Disabilities Assoc.), Naomi Mermin (Naomi Mermin Consulting), Valerie Heal (Headstart), Carole Cifrino (Maine DEP), Ginger Jordan-Hillier (Maine DEP), Joyce Roy (PHN), Gail Phoenix (City of Auburn)

Opening & welcome

Several members were unable to attend this meeting. A suggestion was made to use video or audio conferencing in the future to include members unable to travel.

The Maine Apartment Owners and Managers Association (MAOMA) has also not contacted MCLPPP with a replacement representative.

Another suggestion was made to invite a representative from the Maine Realtors Association to join LEAd-ME.

Action Step: MaryAnn will contact the Maine Realtors Association and MAOMA re: representation on the LEAd-ME Advisory Council.

MCLPPP updates

1. Governors Annual Conference on Affordable Housing

- Kimberly Weed and Bill Jenkins coordinated a workshop on the “Strategic Plan to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning in Maine.” MaryAnn and Bob Dodd participated on the panel presentation. One interesting outcome was realtor interest in promoting lead-safe renovations to new home buyers.

Discussion: Could we promote safe renovations at new home buyer classes? Gail Phoenix: “HomeWorks is a private non-profit that offers new home buyer classes required for federal loans. Could we partner with them? Finally, could we offer a “Healthy Homes” classes for realtors and have it certified to offer continuing education credits?

2. Somali lead workshop

- The MCLPPP will be offering a training workshop to Somali case managers and outreach workers in Lewiston on November 17, 2006. The training will consist of basic information on childhood lead poisoning and interim measures to create lead-safe homes. The training is intended to inform workers who assist new Somali residents to find housing. The trainers are MaryAnn, Sue & Tina from MCLPP, Bill Jenkins from MHA and Robbie Clark from DEP. DEP has offered to provide ongoing support to the workers as they gain experience and confidence in identifying and temporarily remediating potential lead hazards.

Discussion: Carole Cifrino attended the recent NELCC meeting where there was a discussion on lead poisoning in refugee populations. A couple of issues raised were the apparent soil exposure in the recent poisoned Somali children in Manchester, NH and the potential for exposure from culturally specific products. The question was also raised that other health issues may also be present.

3. Sagadahoc Health Information Project (SHIP)

- MCLPPP and DEP are working with SHIP to offer training to the local county health officers and code enforcement officers in lead-smart renovation techniques. The intent is to promote lead-safe renovations at a local level.

4. Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund

- MCLPPP is currently recruiting for the LPPF advisory committee.

Report from the NE Asthma Symposium Andy Finch

- Best practice programs addressing asthma were presented. The programs were all county or city health departments that didn't appear to have much relevance for Maine. The programs attempted to address environmental triggers, primarily rodents and dust. One program distributed HEPA vacuums.

Andy also updated LEAd-ME on an emerging state public health project:

- LD 1614, passed last year, mandated the creation of a Public Health Workgroup to come up with a proposal for local public health infrastructure. They will report back to the legislature in January. Currently they are talking about creating local certified public health coalitions, possibly 8 statewide. They are discussing criteria for community health coalition competencies. Read more information at the ME-CDC website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/phwg/phwg.htm>

**Report from the New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC) meeting Oct. 24-26, 2006 Vermont
Carole and Naomi**

- NELCC, funded by EPA, has 2 meetings/year: one of the core coordinating committee and one that includes community partners.
- At last year's meeting, Naomi facilitated a public policy workgroup session. The discussion was continued at the Oct. meeting.
- The top 3 issues identified were:
 - Renovations
 - Landlord liability
 - Lead-contaminated products
- Targeted efforts should be conducted in the context of Healthy Homes and should include enforcement
- It was decided that NELCC no longer needs a large annual conference

"Don't Spread Lead" brochure and video

- This brochure/ video, developed by NELCC members over the past 2 years, replaces the "Keep It Clean" brochures.
- A DVD will be produced. Both the brochure and DVD will be available for distribution throughout New England.

LEAd-ME members viewed the 15-minute "Don't Spread Lead" video

Discussion: All LEAd-ME members who viewed the video liked it. They offered suggestions for distribution, including giving it to new home buyers, distributing it through the upcoming targeted mailing to new parents, as part of the "Bucket Brigade" and through realtors.

The next LEAd-ME meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2007